almost every walk of life. We have always been discussing about the upliftment and the dignity of women. Unless the woman has a role in decision making and she gets equal participation in the political power, the schemes for her upliftment can not be implemented widely. In view of this, every party had declared before the election that they would provide 33 percent reservation to women in State Legislatures and Parliament. The Bharatiya Janata Party, in its national convention, had also passed a resolution to this effect. When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, he had also reiterated the same thing. This fact also found mention in the President's Address. The present Prime Minister has also made a promise in this regard. If you really want the upliftment and equal participation of women, a Bill for providing 33 percent reservation to women should be introduced and passed in this very session so that women could avail this benefit in the ensuing Legislative Assembly elections. I, through you, would like to request the Government to introduce and pass a Bill to this effect in the current session itself ...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, atleast an assurance should come from the Government that the Bill would be introduced in this very session.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, you called Shri Hannan Mollah... *(Interruptions)*. Let him get his chance. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Madam, please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): This Bill is almost ready.

This Bill will be introduced in this Session and the Government's intention is that, with tne cooperation of this House, this Bill should be passed in this Session itself.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given a privilege notice against the Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : After Mr. Mollah, I will allow you.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I rise to raise a very important issue ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that a Bill will be brought before this House for 33 percent reservation to women in the Parliament. What about reservation in jobs for women?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The matter regarding reservation for women in jobs is yet to be decided.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I hope it will be decided quickly.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Sir, as you know, a large number of jute mills in West Bengal and other parts of the country are lying closed for a very long time. In my Constituency, Kanoria and Premchand Jute Mills and some other new jute mills are closed for a very long time. Another 12 jute mills in other parts of West Bengal are also lying closed. Most of the jute mills are partially closed. About 50 percent of the jute mill workers are out of job at the moment. It is a serious problem. One more major problem is that under the Compulsory Package Act which was passed by this House, the Government and the public sector have to use jute bags for carrying cement and other things. But that Act is not being implemented by the public sector.

Secondly, the Jute Corporation of India are not purchasing adequate quantity of jute. Over and above due to shortage of raw jute, many jute mills are closed and thousands of workers are out of job. The JCI is also suffering from shortage of funds. The Finance Ministry is not giving adequate funds to JCI to purchase raw jute. The economy of West Bengal and other parts of the country where the jute mills are closed, are in a shambles.

So, I would request the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of Labour to take appropriate action so that the jute mills which are closed now are reopened and the Compulsory Package Act is implemented fully. The JCI should also procure raw jute so that the shortage of raw jute can be tackled, the factories can reopened, and thousands of workers can also get back their jobs as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One-by-one everybody will get a chance to speak.

COGENTRIX POWER PROJECT

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Privilege Motion on the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister. Yesterday, I had asked some questions regarding Cogentrix Power Project in this House during Question Hour. The reply of the hon-Prime Minister to it is available in the proceedings of Lok Sabha which was sent to me in the morning. He had stated.

[English]

> "The Cogentrix Project has not yet been cleared by the Central Government. The PPA is at the level of the State Government which is the Karnataka Electricity Board. So far as this Power Purchase Agreement and its other aspects are concerned, the State Government has to finally take a decision. The Central Electricity Authority will then examine the whole issue and only then will it come before the Central Government.